

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating damage to excitable tissue in a subject comprising:  
~~determining whether a subject has suffered an injury to an excitable tissue;~~  
— and  
administering ~~to the~~ a subject therapeutically effective ~~amounts amount~~ of compounds to treat an injury to excitable tissue in the subject, wherein the compounds comprise a sodium channel blocker, a non-specific protease inhibitor, and a corticosteroid.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sodium channel blocker is procaine.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-specific protease is leupeptin.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is selected from the group consisting of methylprednisolone and hydrocortisone hemiscuccinate.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is methylprednisolone.
6. Cancelled.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compounds are administered as a single drug dose.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compounds are administered in separate drug dosages.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compounds are administered within eight hours of the injury to the excitable tissue.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the compounds are administered within four hours of the injury to the excitable tissue.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the compounds are administered within two hours of the injury to the excitable tissue.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the compounds is administered systemically.
13. (Original) The methods of claim 1, wherein one or more of the compounds are administered by perfusion at or near the injured tissue.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the injury is to the central nervous system.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the injury is to the brain.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the injury results from ischemic damage to the brain.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the injury results ~~in~~ from a stroke.
18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the injury is to the spinal cord.
19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the injury is to the heart.
20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein injury is myocardial infarction.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising decompressing the injured tissue.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising reperfusing the injured tissue.

23-28. Cancelled.

29. (New) A method of treating brain injury in a subject comprising

- a) administering about 200 µg/ml of *p*-aminobenzamidine locally by infusion;
- b) administering about 4 to about 5 mg/kg of phenytoin locally; and
- c) administering about 30 to about 50 mg/kg of fluticasone propionate systemically;

wherein the subject has brain damage due to hydrocephalus.